



THE DIOCESAN SYNOD OF FREDERICTON

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Approved 28 June 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL

16 May 2007

Rothesay Netherwood School

Pre-meeting circulation:

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes 17 April 2007
- Attendance Report (11 April 2007)
- Synod Journal Council Report
- Parish Budget Support (2006)
- Shared Ministry Plan Status

Distributed at meeting

- Council Bible Reflection
- Clergy Committee on the Code of Pastoral Conduct Briefing
- Camps Capital Campaign Update
- AST Proposal: Diocese of Fredericton Endowment Fund

In attendance:

Stuart Allan, Murry Arnott, Elizabeth Belyea, John Cathcart, Patricia Drummond, Keith Dow, David Edwards (p.m.), Charles Ferris, Peter Gillies, Geoffrey Hall, Keith Joyce (a.m.), Hazel MacKenzie, Mary MacDonald, Betty McNamara, Richard McConnell, Claude Miller, Keith Osborne, Douglas Painter, Elizabeth Reid, Fred Scott, John Sharpe, Donald Thompson, Cecil VanBuskirk.

Regrets:

George Connor, Don Hamilton, Vicars Hodge, Walter Williams.

Guests:

Elizabeth Harding, Leo Martin, George Porter, Maureen Vail, Allen Tapley, Ana Watts

1. Call to Order

1.1 Welcome and Prayer

This session of Diocesan Council was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by the Right Reverend Claude W. Miller. The principal of RNS, Mr. Paul Kitchen, offered a warm welcome to all members of Council. The Bishop proceeded to offer his own welcome and offered prayers as an opening of this session of Council.

1.2 Regrets:

G. Hall offered regrets on behalf of those listed above. He also indicated some members had to leave early and that another member would be late arriving.

1.3 Reflection and opening comments

In his remarks, the Bishop recognized this session would be the last one before our Diocesan Synod in June and, as such, would be the last time this particular council met as a whole. The Bishop offered his personal thanks to all council members, especially to those who would not be returning on the next Council. The Bishop acknowledged that much work had been accomplished in the last

two years and he commended all members for their hard work. He also accepted the fact that challenges continue to face the Church and that we need to work together for its growth and betterment.

1.4 Discussion and study

The Bishop asked Don Hamilton and Elizabeth Reid to read John 17:20-26 in turn. After a short period of silent reflection, the chair asked for discussion and comments. Some thoughts and themes which came forward were: unity, our differences add pressure to our unity, love is the common bond, outreach, we need to go back to Jesus to test our differences, the busyness of our church work makes us forget why we are doing the work, a reminder of who we are as Christians, , emphasis points to God.

The Bishop brought the discussion to a close with a reference to C.S. Lewis stating that what we add on to Christianity tends to become our 'gospel' and it takes away from the core of the message and our faith. This action causes us to lose our focus.

The Bishop then called on outgoing members for their thoughts and comments on their Council experiences. The following gives an overview:

- It was an eye opening experience to see what Council actually does. Developed a greater respect for the work being done. As part of the Youth team, would make the suggestion that the Youth Director become the chair of this team. Much of the work in youth is done with the Christian Education Director and Youth Director so this would facilitate communication between these two sides of youth work.
- Enjoyed the fellowship amongst Council members. Noticed a real commitment to unity.
- Felt the weekend for development was a real reward. However, trying to get people to 'buy into' Council initiatives and programs was not so rewarding. Example given was the Stewardship Workshops which were discouraging at times. Most of the time, difficulties came from the clergy.
- A word of thanks to the Bishop for his openness and willingness to consider all thoughts expressed around the table. Advice to incoming members: You decide for yourself what level of contribution you will make. It is hoped new members will bring the same level of commitment and passion to the table so that development can become implementation. Define the word support.
- Previous council experience was negative - lonely and never felt part of the team. With this Council, definitely felt part of the team and the experience was great. The only downside is that the parishes don't know what the Council does and who the members are.
- Membership has been a privilege and helped to give a mature understanding of the workings of the Church. One concern: Issues facing the national and international church are viewed as challenges, and sometimes it is too easy to go 'with the flow.' Council should not be influenced by the status quo. Our church only has one gear and that is forward.
- The change in Council happened at Camp Gagetown; this is where the Council came 'together' as a group. We have grown spiritually and administratively. Very proud of the Shared Ministry Plan. It was refreshing to be able to talk about the difficulties within the Diocese openly and without confrontations. We recognize changes are needed and also hope new members will feel the same excitement.

The Secretary (G. Hall) reminded all members, especially chairs, that it is important upon departure from team work to pass notes and record of past and future work to the each team.

1.5 Correspondence

The Bishop indicated he had received a letter of resignation from Caryn Gunther as youth member on Diocesan Council. He recommended a letter of thanks be sent to Caryn for her participation.

1.6 The Agenda: modification requests

The following items were added under reports:

- 3.2.3 Report from the Clergy Committee on the Code of Pastoral Conduct
- 3.2.4 AST Proposal
- 3.2.5 Camps Capital Campaign Update

MOTION 1: D. Thompson / J. Cathcart - **That the agenda be accepted as modified.**

MOTION 1: Carried unanimously.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting: 11 April 2007

2.1 Modifications and acceptance

MOTION 2: M. Arnott / C. VanBuskirk - **That the minutes of the 11 April 2007 meeting of Diocesan Council be accepted as circulated.**

MOTION 2: Carried unanimously.

2.2 Unfinished business

- 2.2.1 Code of Pastoral Conduct - tabled (Oct 06) clergy group working
- 2.2.2 Shared Ministry Plan Implementation - via Greater Chapter and Synod
- 2.2.3 Fractured relationship mediation - pending
- 2.2.4 RNS School Act and governance review - continuing
- 2.2.5 Retired Clergy Benefits - Consultation with retirees continuing
- 2.2.6 Fair Share Contribution - Greater Chapter Presentation
- 2.2.7 Future Meetings - 27 June change (motion scheduled)
- 2.2.8 Letter of thanks to Prince William - sent
- 2.2.9 Letter of condolence/encouragement (military) - sent

3. Reports

3.1 Council Team reports:

Reports are contained in the Synod Journal. The Bishop asked if there were additions to be made.

3.1.1 Youth

Teens Encounter Christ weekend will take place May 18-21 with 48 registrations.

3.1.2 Stewardship

Still awaiting Greater Chapter nominations to committee.

3.1.3 Spiritual Formation

80 are registered for the Bishop's Day with the layreaders.

3.1.4 Parish Support

3.1.5 Mission / Outreach

3.1.6 Episcopal

3.1.7 Administration

3.1.7.1 Finance Committee

MOTION 3: C. VanBuskirk / D. Thompson - **That the team reports as printed in the 2007 Synod Journal with verbal additions be accepted.**

MOTION 3: Carried unanimously.

3.2 Other Reports

3.2.1 Shared Ministry Plan Status

Pages 14 and 15 of the pre-circulation package looks at the different points of the plan to see if progress is being made. Some discussion followed. It was suggested the plan needs an overall manager to coordinate the efforts of all those involved. An appropriate person might be the Vice Chair of Council. It was further suggested that changes to the plan be made as follows:

- changes to values - by Synod
- changes to initiatives - by Council
- changes to activities - by teams

3.2.2 Greater Chapter Meetings April and May

3.2.2.1 Election Results (April)

Archdeaconry elections for Diocesan Council reported Journal F-42.

3.2.2.2 Fair Share Contribution: Presentation and Discussion (May)

In progress. There has only been one meeting held so far. It was challenging and many questions were brought forth. After a brief orientation, the motions on water and the diocesan budget support were discussed. On the second motion, those present were caught up on figures rather than the principle. It needs to be stressed that the motion deals with the rates only since Council has already approved the process.

3.2.2.3 Other Synod proposed resolutions

Twelve notices of motion were received. There were four motions related to the same-sex issue and the Canons and Constitution Committee sought the support of the movers and seconders to join these four motions into one; however to no avail. There could be other notices of motions from the floor of Synod.

3.2.3 Clergy Committee on the Code of Pastoral Conduct

The Bishop invited the Rev'd Allen Tapley to present the report. Following the presentation, a question was asked regarding the proposed amendment in the report: Does this proposed amendment weaken the prerogative of the Bishop to deal with matters of discipline? In answer, it was stated the committee does not feel the code is disciplinary in nature even though it may have ramifications on discipline.

MOTION 4: K. Joyce / R. McConnell - That the report from the Clergy Committee on the Code of Pastoral Conduct be accepted as presented and circulated.

Discussion: In his temporary absence, the Secretary indicated the Chancellor has some concerns regarding the receiving of the report.

MOTION 4a: P. Gillies / K. Dow - That motion 4 be tabled until after lunch.

MOTION 4a: Carried unanimously.

3.2.4 Camps Campaign Report

Fred Scott presented the report indicating the halfway marked had been reached. There are some cash flow issues where expenses are coming faster than the donations (approximately \$20,000/month). The support from the laity has been tremendous.

3.2.5 AST Proposal regarding the Fredericton Endowment Fund

The Endowment would be reserved to Diocese of Fredericton students and would come as no cost to the Diocese whatsoever. It was reported that as of this date, no contribution had been made to the endowment of AST by any parish within the Diocese. The Bishop indicated his support for this proposal. A motion will be presented under Business.

At 11:58 a.m., the bishop suspended the business of Council for lunch and asked Archdeacon Stuart Allan to offer the blessing. The members of Council reconvened at 12:48 p.m.

MOTION 4b: D. Painter / J. Sharpe - That Motion 4 be lifted from the table for discussion.

MOTION 4b: Carried unanimously.

On the discussion:

- There is concern that clergy write their own code of conduct
- There is concern as to how this affects the relationship between clergy and Bishop
- There is the concern of clergy who refuse to take the oaths
- There is a concern that this committee should bring a resolution to Synod

After some debate, the discussion centered on the fact that the review committee is to be advisory to the Bishop and not mandated to make motions but to report to the Bishop. As a result, the Bishop will meet with the Dean to discuss and resolve any confusion regarding the appropriateness of the proposed notice of motion to Synod.

MOTION 4c (amendment): K. Dow / D. Thompson: **That motion 4 be amended to read: "That the report from the Clergy Committee on the Code of Pastoral Conduct be accepted as presented and circulated for information purposes."**

MOTION 4c (amendment): Carried unanimously.

When put to the vote,

MOTION 4: Carried unanimously as amended.

4. Business

4.1 Post-Synod Meeting of Diocesan Council

Much discussion on various dates was held.

MOTION 5: K. Joyce / J. Sharpe - **That the meeting of Diocesan Council scheduled 27 June 2007 be changed to the afternoon of 28 June 2007 at 1:30 pm at a location in Fredericton.**

MOTION 5: Carried with 1 opposed.

4.2 Roles and Responsibilities approval process (Administration Team)

MOTION 6: G. Hall / M. Arnott - **That this Diocesan Council delegate the approval of Roles and Responsibilities (terms of reference) to the teams of Council for those under their purview with the exception of the same for the teams themselves and the Standing Committees of Council.**

MOTION 6: Carried unanimously.

4.3 Diocesan Budget Process - 2008 Budget (Administration Team)

MOTION 7: M. Arnott / H. Mackenzie - **That the Diocesan Finance Committee be asked to facilitate a meeting with Council Team Chairs (possibly the evening before the Council meeting in September 2007) for the purpose of preparing a draft of the 2008 Budget and giving attention to how this process should be established into the future.**

MOTION 7: Carried unanimously

4.4 Atlantic School of Theology Proposal on Fredericton Endowment

MOTION 8: G. Hall / M. Arnott - **That this Diocesan Council receive with thanks the May 2007 proposal made by AST regarding the Diocese of Fredericton Fund as an endowment supporting programs encouraging vocations to lay and ordained ministries in the Anglican Church in New Brunswick.**

MOTION 8: Carried with 1 opposed.

MOTION 9: P. Gillies/E. Reid - **That the Diocesan Treasurer be directed to remit to AST as soon as possible the amount of \$10,000 in the current budget - to be allocated as \$5,000 to the Endowment Fund and \$5,000 to the Operating Fund.**

MOTION 9: Carried with 1 opposed.

4.5 Future Meetings of Diocesan Council

MOTION 10: S. Allan / D. Thompson - **That the future meeting dates and locations of Diocesan Council meetings be accepted:**

- **Thursday, 28 June 2007 (location - Fredericton) - post-Synod - [note the change]**
- **Saturday, 15 September 2007 (location - Oromocto)**
- **Wednesday, 07 November 2007 (location - Bushville)**

MOTION 10: Carried unanimously.

4.6 Notices

4.6.1 Appointments

The Bishop announced the following appoints as Canons of Christ Church Cathedral:

Lay Canon	Charles Ferris
Clergy Canons	The Rev'd Howard Anningson The Rev'd John Cathcart The Rev'd Elaine Hamilton
Honourary	The Rev'd Neville Cheeseman

4.6.2 Companion Diocese Bishop

The Bishop also announced Bishop Matthias Medadues-Badohu of the Diocese of Ho in Ghana would arrive on Saturday, May 26th.

4.6.3 Episcopal visitations

The Bishop also announced he had very successful visits in the Archdeaconries of St. Andrews and Woodstock.

5. Adjournment

MOTION 11: P. Gillies - **That this meeting of Diocesan Council be adjourned.**

MOTION 11: Carried unanimously.

The meeting closed with prayer. Time 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Leo Martin, Recording Secretary

The Venerable Geoffrey Hall, Secretary of Synod

The Right Reverend Dr. Claude W. Miller, Chair and Bishop

22 May 2007